FM/AM
Radio-Controlled
Clock Radio

Operating Instructions

DREAM MACHINE

Dream Machine is a trademark of Sony Corporation.

ICF-C255RC

| |

WARNING

To prevent fire or shock hazard, do not expose the unit to rain or moisture.

CAUTION
RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK
DO NOT OPEN

CAUTION: TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK,
DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK).
NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE.
REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.

This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.

This symbol is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

∗ The graphical symbols are at the bottom of the unit.

You are cautioned that any changes or modifications not expressly approved in this manual could void your authority to operate this equipment.

INFORMATION

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

—Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
—Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
—Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
—Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Before You Begin

Thank you for choosing the Sony Dream Machine. The Dream Machine will give you many hours of reliable service and listening pleasure.
Before operating your unit, please read these instructions thoroughly and retain them for future reference.

Features

• Radio-Controlled Clock Auto Adjust System.
• Radio and buzzer dual alarms.
• 5 random station presets for easy one button tuning.
• LCD with backlight, and brightness adjustment for the backlight.
• Alarm setting dial—easy to set alarm time and modes.
• Date button to display the year, month and day.
• Extendable snooze—snooze time can be extended from 8 to 60 minutes in maximum every time you use.

Precautions

• Operate the unit only on 120 V AC, 60 Hz.
• To disconnect the power cord (mains lead), pull it out by the plug, not the cord.
• Do not leave the unit in a location near a heat source such as a radiator or airduct, or in a place subject to direct sunlight, excessive dust, mechanical vibration, or shock.
• Allow adequate air circulation to prevent internal heat build-up. Do not place the unit on a surface (a rug, a blanket, etc.) or near materials (a curtain) which might block the ventilation holes.
• Should any solid object or liquid fall into the unit, unplug the unit and have it checked by a qualified personnel before operating it any further.
• To clean the casing, use a soft cloth dampened with a mild detergent solution.

If you have any questions or problems concerning your unit, please consult your nearest Sony dealer.

Specifications

Time display
 12-hour system
Frequency range
 FM: 87.5–108 MHz
 AM: 530–1 710 kHz
Channel steps
 FM: 0.1 MHz (fixed)
 AM: 10 kHz (fixed)
Speaker
 Approx. 6.6 cm (2 5/8 in.) dia., 8 Ω
Power output
 200 mW (at 10% harmonic distortion)
Power requirements
 120 V AC, 60 Hz
Dimensions
 Approx. 180.5 × 55 × 140 mm (w/h/d)
 (7 1/8 × 2 1/4 × 5 5/8 in.) incl. projecting parts and controls
Mass
 Approx. 740 g (1 lb. 10 oz.)

Design and specifications are subject to change without notice.

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS

For your protection, please read these safety instructions completely before operating the appliance, and keep this manual for future reference.
Carefully observe all warnings, precautions and instructions on the appliance and in the operating instructions, and adhere to them.

INSTALLATION
Water and Moisture
Do not use powerline operated appliances near water - for example, near a bathtub, washbowl, kitchen sink, or laundry tub, in a wet basement, or near a swimming pool, etc.
Heat
Do not place the appliance near or over a radiator or heat register, or where it is exposed to direct sunlight.
Ventilation
The slots and openings in the cabinet are provided for necessary ventilation. To ensure reliable operation of the appliance, and to protect it from overheating, these slots and openings must never be blocked or covered.
-Never cover the slots and openings with a cloth or other materials.
-Never block the slots and openings by placing the appliance on a bed, sofa, rug or other similar surface.
-Never place the appliance in a confined space, such as a bookcase, or built-in cabinet, unless proper ventilation is provided.
Accessories
Do not place the appliance on an unstable cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table. The appliance may fall, causing serious injury to a child or an adult, and serious damage to the appliance. Use only a cart, stand, tripod, bracket, or table recommended by Sony.
-An appliance and cart combination should be moved with care. Quick stops, excessive force, and uneven surfaces may cause the appliance and cart combination to overturn.
Wall or Ceiling Mounting
If your appliance can be mounted to a wall or ceiling, mount it only as recommended by Sony.

USE
Power Source
This appliance should be operated only from the type of power source indicated on the marking label. If you are not sure of the type of electrical power supplied to your home, consult your dealer or local power company. For those appliances designed to operate from battery power, or other sources, refer to the operating instructions.
Grounding or Polarization
This appliance is equipped with a polarized AC power cord plug (a plug having one blade wider than the other), or with a three-wire grounding type plug (a plug having a third pin for grounding). Follow the instructions below:
-For the appliance with a polarized AC power cord plug:
This plug will fit into the power outlet only one way. This is a safety feature. If you are unable to insert the plug fully into the outlet, try reversing the plug. If the plug should still fail to fit, contact your electrician to have a suitable outlet installed. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the polarized plug by forcing it in.
-For the appliance with a three-wire grounding type AC plug:
This plug will only fit into a grounding-type power outlet. This is a safety feature. If you are unable to insert the plug into the outlet, contact your electrician to have a suitable outlet installed. Do not defeat the safety purpose of the grounding plug.
Overloading
Do not overload wall outlets, extension cords or convenience receptacles beyond their capacity, since this can result in fire or electric shock.
When not in use
Unplug the power cord of the appliance from the outlet when left unused for a long period of time. To disconnect the cord, pull it out by grasping the plug. Never pull the plug out by the cord.
Power-Cord Protection
Route the power cord so that it is not likely to be walked on or pinched by items placed upon or against them, paying particular attention to the plugs, receptacles, and the point where the cord exits from the appliance.
Lightning
For added protection for this appliance during a lightning storm, or when it is left unattended and unused for long periods of time, unplug it from the wall outlet and disconnect the antenna or cable system. This will prevent damage to the appliance due to lightning and powerline surges.
Object and Liquid Entry
Never push objects of any kind into the appliance through openings as they may touch dangerous voltage points or short out parts that could result in a fire or electric shock. Never spill liquid of any kind on the appliance.
Cleaning
Unplug the appliance from the wall outlet before cleaning or polishing it. Do not use liquid cleaners or aerosol cleaners. Use a cloth lightly dampened with water for cleaning the exterior of the appliance. Clean the appliance only as recommended by Sony.
Attachments
Do not use attachments not recommended by Sony, as they may cause hazards.

ANTENNAS
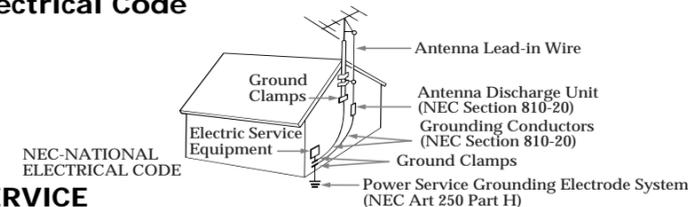**Outdoor Antenna Grounding**
If an outdoor antenna or cable system is installed, follow the precautions below.
An outdoor antenna system should not be located in the vicinity of overhead power lines or other electric light or power circuits, or where it can come in contact with such power lines or circuits. WHEN INSTALLING AN OUTDOOR ANTENNA SYSTEM, EXTREME CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN TO KEEP FROM CONTACTING SUCH POWER LINES OR CIRCUITS AS CONTACT WITH THEM IS ALMOST INVARIABLY FATAL.
Be sure the antenna system is grounded so as to provide some protection against voltage surges and built-up static charges. Section 810 of the National Electrical Code provides information with respect to proper grounding of the mast and supporting structure, grounding of the lead-in wire to an antenna discharge unit, size of grounding conductors, location of antenna-discharge unit, connection to grounding electrodes, and requirements for the grounding electrode.

Antenna Grounding According to the National Electrical Code

Antenna Lead-in Wire
Ground Clamps
Antenna Discharge Unit (NEC Section 810-20)
Grounding Conductors (NEC Section 810-20)
Electric Service Equipment
Ground Clamps
NEC-NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE
Power Service Grounding Electrode System (NEC Art 250 Part H)

SERVICE
Damage Requiring Service
Unplug the appliance from the wall outlet and refer servicing to qualified service personnel under the following conditions:
-When the power cord or plug is damage or frayed.
-If liquid has been spilled or objects have fallen into the appliance.
-If the appliance has been exposed to rain or water.
-The appliance does not appear to operate normally or exhibits a marked change in performance. -This indicates a need for service.
-If the appliance does not operate normally when following the operating instructions, adjust only those controls that are specified in the operating instructions. Improper adjustment of other controls may result in damage and will often require extensive work by a qualified technician to restore the appliance to normal operation.
-If the appliance has been subject to excessive shock by being dropped, or the cabinet has been damaged.
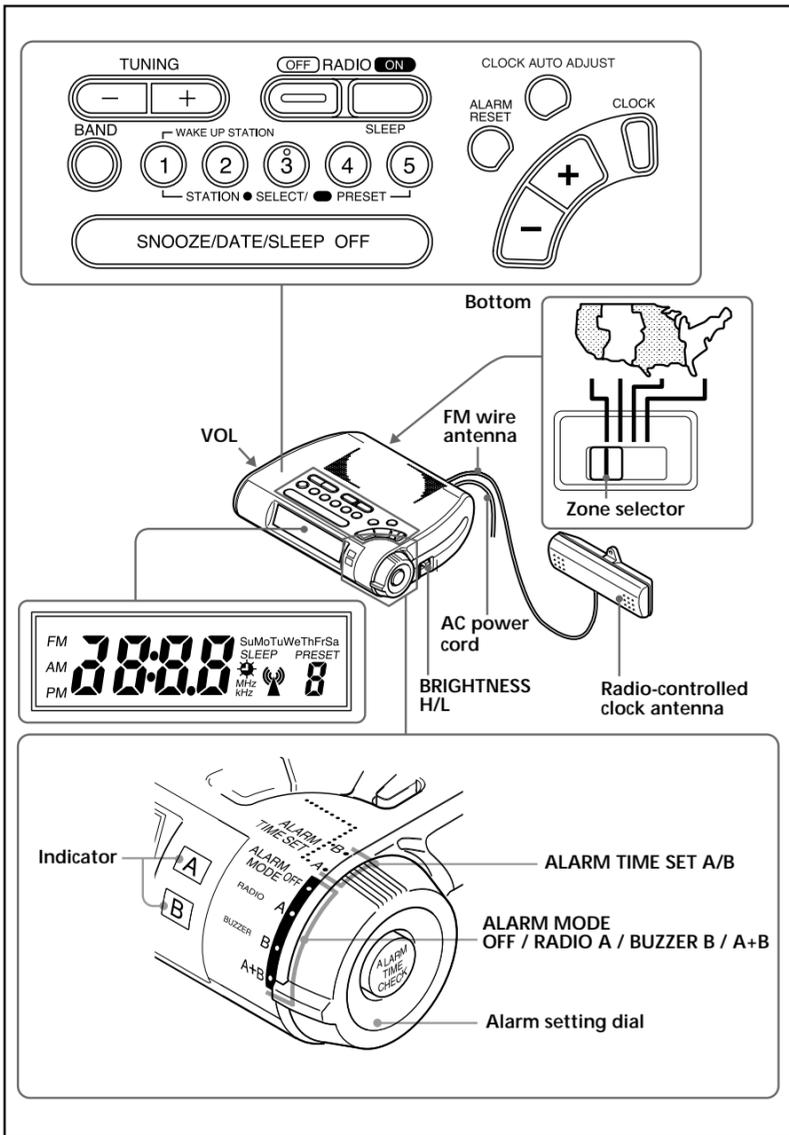**Servicing**
Do not attempt to service the appliance yourself as opening or removing covers may expose you to dangerous voltage or other hazards.
Refer all servicing to qualified service personnel.
Replacement parts
When replacement parts are required, be sure the service technician has used replacement parts specified by Sony that have the same characteristics as the original parts. Unauthorized substitutions may result in fire, electric shock, or other hazards.
Safety Check
Upon completion of any service or repairs to the appliance, ask the service technician to perform routine safety checks (as specified by Sony) to determine that the appliance is in safe operating condition.
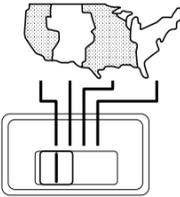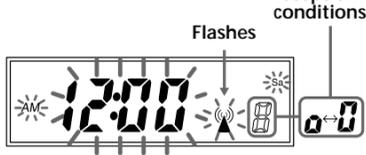
Setting the Clock and Date

Note
When unable to see the display, set **BRIGHTNESS** for the display to **H** (high) or **L** (low) according to your preference.

To Set the Clock and Date Automatically

This radio is equipped with a radio-controlled clock-auto-adjust system.
The clock-auto-adjust receives standard time data (year, month, day, hour, minute, second, and D.S.T.) on a prescribed frequency, and uses that to automatically reset the clock. To receive correct local time, set the zone selector (illustrated below) on the bottom of the radio to the time zone you are in (Eastern, Central, Mountain, or Pacific). If the selector is set to the wrong zone, the displayed time will be wrong. There are no zone settings for Alaska and Hawaii.

1 Set the alarm setting dial to **ALARM MODE OFF** and then plug in the unit.
The Clock Auto Adjust function activates automatically. " ⚓ " will flash in the display.
It takes about three minutes from the moment that reception starts until the displayed time is correct even if the reception is good.

reception conditions

Flashes

2 When clock adjustment is completed, the clock will start to operate. " ⚓ " will stop flashing and remain in the display.

Lit

Notes
• If the radio is turned on before clock adjustment is completed, the unit stops receiving time signals.
• If the alarm setting dial is set to **ALARM TIME SET A** or **B** before clock adjustment is completed, the unit stops receiving time signals.
• If the alarm setting dial is set to a position other than **ALARM TIME SET A** or **B** while the radio is turned off, the unit starts to receive time signals again.
• If **CLOCK AUTO ADJUST** is pressed before clock adjustment is completed, the unit stops receiving time signals.

Unable to set the Clock Automatically
Press **CLOCK** until you hear one beep and press **CLOCK + or −** to set the correct time and date. (See "To Set the Clock and Date Manually".)

To initiate Clock Auto Adjust manually
Pressing **CLOCK AUTO ADJUST** allows you to receive time signals..
" ⚓ " will flash in the display. When the Clock Auto Adjust process is completed, the clock will be corrected, if needed, and " ⚓ " will stop flashing and remain lit in the display.
If the radio fails to receive time signals for about 12 minutes, the clock will remain unadjusted, and " ⚓ " will disappear from the display.

Notes
• When the alarm setting dial is set to **ALARM TIME SET A** or **B** or the radio is being operated, the unit cannot receive time signals.
• If the radio is turned on while the Clock Auto Adjust system is activated, the unit stops receiving time signals.
• If the alarm setting dial is set to **ALARM TIME SET A** or **B** , the unit stops receiving time signals.

To check reception
The display shows reception conditions when time signals are being received (when the power cord is inserted in a wall socket, or **CLOCK AUTO ADJUST** is pressed).

reception conditions

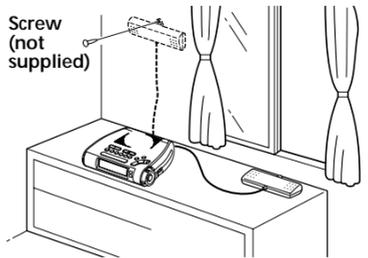| Display	Reception
Changes regularly between " ⓞ " and " ⓖ " at one second intervals	Good
" ⓞ " or " ⓖ " stays on, or intervals between changes are irregular	Defective

To improve reception
Reception is governed in large part by where the radio-controlled clock antenna is set up and which direction it is pointed in.

Location of radio-controlled clock antenna setup:
If the installation is within a building made of reinforced concrete, reception will be weaker the farther the antenna is from a window. To improve reception, place the antenna as close as possible to the window.

Direction the antenna faces:
Reception changes depending on the direction that the antenna is facing. Look at the display window to check reception, and turn the antenna so that it faces in the direction where reception is most stable.
Reception may be poor when the antenna is placed on a metal surface such as that of a steel desk.

Screw
(not supplied)

Notes
Reception may be impossible in these locations:
• Close to television sets, personal computers, refrigerators or similar electrical appliances and equipment.
• Close to high voltage wires or overhead power lines.
• Locations where there could be interference with electrical signals such as construction sites, airports or any other place where there is a large volume of traffic.

Location of transmitting source
Time signals are transmitted from the following location:

Fort Collins, Colorado, U.S.A.
40° 40' N, 105° 03' W

The strength of time signals changes according to time of reception (you will get better reception in the nighttime). If the clock is not set or corrected automatically after you change the location or direction of the radio-controlled clock antenna, wait a while and see if you get better reception at a later time.

Automatic updating of time data
The Dream Machine is equipped with the Clock Auto Adjust system that automatically receives time signals during the nighttime, the time when reception is best. The system makes nine corrections every hour from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. During automatic operation, " ⚓ " does not flash on and off. If the Clock Auto Adjust system is unable to receive the time signals, " ⚓ " goes off. For improved reception, press **CLOCK AUTO ADJUST** to initiate Clock Auto Adjust manually and change the position or direction of the radio-controlled clock antenna.

Note
Automatic updating cannot be manually canceled.

On daylight Saving Time adjustment
The Clock Auto Adjust system automatically switches the clock indication to Daylight Saving Time (summer time), and back, at the necessary time of the year.
" ☀ " will be displayed when the clock is in Daylight Saving Time.

Note
According to reception conditions, the actual adjustment to or from Daylight Saving Time by the Clock Auto Adjust system may be done later than the exact moment of transition in the yearly calendar.

To Set the Clock and Date Manually

1 Set the alarm setting dial to **ALARM MODE OFF**.
2 Plug in the clock radio.
The display will flash "AM 12:00".
3 Press **CLOCK** for a few seconds.
You will hear a beep and the year will start to flash in the display.

4 Press **CLOCK + or −** until the correct year appears in the display.
5 Press **CLOCK** once.
6 Repeat steps **4** and **5** to set the month, day, hour, and minute.
After setting the minute, press **CLOCK** to start the counting of the seconds, and you will hear two short beeps.
• To set the current time rapidly, hold down **CLOCK + or −**.
• In step **6**, when you press **CLOCK** after the minute setting to activate the clock, the seconds start counting from zero.
• When the alarm setting dial is set to **ALARM TIME SET A** or **B**, the clock cannot be set.

Note
The clock is set to automatically receive time signals and will continue to do so even if it is manually reset.

To display the year and date
Press **SNOOZE/DATE/SLEEP OFF** once for the date, and within 2 seconds press it again for the year.
The display shows the date or year for a few seconds and then changes back to the current time.

To set the brightness of the backlight
Set **BRIGHTNESS** for the display to **H** (high) or **L** (low) according to your preference.

Playing the Radio
Manual Tuning

1 Press **RADIO ON** to turn on the radio.
The display shows the band and frequency for a few seconds and then changes back to the current time.
2 Press **BAND** repeatedly to select the desired band.
3 Use **TUNING + or −** to tune in to the desired station.
The FM frequency advances or reverses in 0.1MHz channel steps and the AM frequency in 10kHz channel steps.
Two short beeps sound when the minimum frequency of each band is received during tuning.
4 Adjust volume using **VOL**.

• To turn off the radio, press **RADIO OFF**.
• To improve reception
  FM: Extend the FM wire antenna fully to increase reception sensitivity.
  AM: Rotate the unit horizontally for optimum reception. A ferrite bar is built in to the unit.

  Do not operate the unit over a steel desk or metal surface, as this may lead to interference of reception.

• To check the station being received, press **TUNING + or −** lightly. The display shows the band and frequency for a few seconds and then changes back to the current time.
• If the radio alarm comes on while the radio is on, the unit switches to the station on **WAKE UP STATION** (preset 1 button).

Preset Tuning
You can preset up to five stations for one-touch tuning; one for each of the preset buttons 1 to 5.

Presetting a station
Example: To preset AM 1 260 kHz onto preset **2** button.
1 Press **RADIO ON** to turn on the radio.
2 Tune in to the station you want to preset.
(See "Manual Tuning".)
3 Hold down the desired **STATION•SELECT/PRESET** button (in this case, **2**) until you hear two short beeps.

The display shows the frequency for a few seconds and then changes back to the current time.

For the radio alarm, preset the station to be used as the alarm onto preset **1** button.

To change a preset station
Tune in manually to the station you want to store and hold down the preset button until you hear two short beeps. The previously stored station will be replaced by the new one.

Tuning in to a preset station
1 Press **RADIO ON** to turn on the radio.
2 Press **STATION•SELECT/PRESET** where the desired station is stored.
3 Adjust volume using **VOL**.
After a few seconds, the display will return to the current time but the preset button number will remain.

Setting the Alarm

You can choose from two types of alarm, Radio (A) or Buzzer (B).
The alarm will come on at the same time everyday.
The factory setting alarm time for the radio (A) and buzzer (B) is 12:00am.

Notes
• Set the current time before setting the alarm.
• Radio reception is interrupted while the alarm time is being set.

To Use the Radio (A) Alarm

You can use the station preset onto the "Preset 1 Button" (**WAKE UP STATION**) as the alarm (see "Preset Tuning").
Preset a station onto preset 1 button.

1 Set the alarm setting dial to **ALARM TIME SET A**. After one beep, indicator Ⓐ flashes.
2 Press **CLOCK + or −** to select the desired time.
When **CLOCK + or −** is held down, the displayed time initially changes in one-minute steps, then after a few seconds switches to ten-minute steps.
3 Set the alarm setting dial to **ALARM MODE RADIO A**.
Indicator Ⓐ lights up.

When the alarm comes on at the preset time, indicator Ⓐ flashes and the radio station that is preset with the preset 1 button comes on.
The unit switches off automatically after about 60 minutes.

To Use the Buzzer (B) Alarm

1 Set the alarm setting dial to **ALARM TIME SET B**.
After one beep, indicator Ⓑ flashes.
2 Press **CLOCK + or −** to select the desired time.
When **CLOCK + or −** is held down, the displayed time initially changes in one-minute steps, then after a few seconds switches to ten-minute steps.
3 Set the alarm setting dial to **ALARM MODE BUZZER B**.
Indicator Ⓑ lights up.

When the alarm comes on at the preset time, indicator Ⓑ flashes and the beep sounds. The beeping becomes more rapid after every few seconds in five progressive stages. The unit switches off automatically after about 60 minutes.

To Use the Radio (A) and Buzzer (B) Alarm

1 Set both alarm times for **ALARM TIME SET A/B**. (see above) .
2 Set the alarm setting dial to **ALARM MODE A+B**.
Indicators Ⓐ and Ⓑ light up.

If the same alarm time is set for both (A) and (B), (A) takes priority.
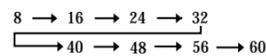
To Check the Alarm Time

Press **ALARM TIME CHECK**.
The display shows the alarm time for a few seconds and then returns to show the current time. When the alarm setting dial is set to either **ALARM MODE OFF** or **A + B**, the alarm time in **RADIO A** and then **BUZZER B** appears in the display.

To Doze for a Few More Minutes

Press **SNOOZE/DATE/SLEEP OFF**.
The radio or buzzer turns off but will automatically come on again after about 8 minutes. Every time you press **SNOOZE/DATE/SLEEP OFF**, the snooze time changes as follows:

8 → 16 → 24 → 32
40 → 48 → 56 → 60

The display shows the snooze time for a few seconds and returns to show the current time. When you press **SNOOZE/DATE/SLEEP OFF** after the current time appeared, the snooze time starts from 8 minutes again.

• The maximum length of the snooze time is 60 minutes.

To Stop the Alarm
Press **ALARM RESET** to turn off the alarm.
The alarm will come on again at the same time the next day.
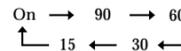
To Deactivate the Alarm
Set the alarm setting dial to **ALARM MODE OFF**.

Setting the Sleep Timer

You can enjoy falling asleep to the radio using the built-in sleep timer that turns off the radio automatically after a preset duration.

Press **SLEEP**.
The radio turns on. You can set the sleep timer to durations of 90, 60, 30, or 15 minutes. Every push changes the display as follows:

On → 90 → 60
15 ← 30 ←

Two short beeps sound when the display returns to "On".
"SLEEP" will appear in the display when the duration time is set.
The radio will play for the time you set, then shut off.

• To turn off the radio before the preset time, press **SNOOZE/DATE/SLEEP OFF**.

To Use Both Sleep Timer and Alarm

You can fall asleep to the radio and also be awakened by the radio or buzzer alarm at the preset time.

1 Set the alarm. (See "Setting the Alarm".)
2 Set the sleep timer. (See "Setting the Sleep Timer".)

Troubleshooting

Should any problem occur with the unit, make the following simple checks to determine whether or not servicing is required.
If the problem persists, consult your nearest Sony dealer.

Unable to receive time signals
• Inappropriate location for setting up antenna. Try moving the antenna to a different location. If reception is still bad, wait for awhile because reception may improve at a later time. See "To improve reception."

The clock does not show the correct time.
• Has an electrical power outage lasting more than 1 minutes occurred?

The radio or buzzer alarm does not sound at the preset alarm time.
• Has the desired radio or buzzer alarm been activated? (i.e. Is the indicator Ⓐ or Ⓑ lit?)

The radio alarm is activated but no sound comes on at the preset alarm time.
• Has a station been preset onto **WAKE UP STATION** (preset 1 button)?
• Has **VOL** been adjusted ?

No sound comes from the speakers.
• Hasn't the alarm setting dial been remained setting to **ALARM TIME SET**?